

JAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 JUN 2006  
ATTACHMENT A**ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE FLOOR COVERINGS*****Field of the Invention***

The invention relates to an electrically conductive floor covering.

***Description of the-Related Art***

Static charges, which are produced by walking or travelling on plastic floor coverings, particularly at low atmospheric humidity, represent a serious problem, particularly for sensitive electronic components. The electronic components may be damaged or their function may be impaired by electrostatic discharges. Furthermore, in areas in which easily flammable materials are worked with, there is the danger that these materials will be ignited by spark-over in the event of static discharges. The avoidance of static charges is particularly important in surroundings which are air-conditioned and therefore have a low atmospheric humidity, such as computer centers, manufacturing facilities for electronic components and electronic devices, radiological facilities, operating rooms, and other areas in which care is taken to provide an atmosphere low in dust and particles.

The floor coverings typically used, for example those based on polyvinyl chloride or rubber mixtures, are insulators. They may be made conductive if conductive fillers or antistatic agents are mixed in. However, a relatively large quantity, typically between 30 and 50 volume-percent of a conductive filler, must be used to achieve a sufficient conductivity. Metallic materials, conductive carbon black, or graphite are used in particular as conductive fillers, but the use of the necessary quantities results in black or gray products. If antistatic agents are used, there is the disadvantage that these materials react very strongly to changes in atmospheric humidity and their effectiveness is therefore strongly dependent on the environmental conditions.